Acceptance guideline 7: Discharges from pools

Overview

The purpose of this acceptance guideline is to outline under what circumstances Icon Water will permit the discharge of liquid waste into the sewerage network.

Under section 35 of the *Utilities (Technical Regulation) Act 2014*, it is an offence to discharge into the water or sewerage network any substance that is likely to interfere with the network, or form compounds that would be likely to interfere, unless the consent of the utility is obtained. Significant fines, imprisonment or both may result from an offence. Discharges entering a sewer that are in breach of the conditions set out in this guideline will probably constitute a breach of section 35 of the *Utilities (Technical Regulation) Act 2014* and may lead to prosecution of the person discharging the waste, or allowing the waste to be discharged.

This guideline contains specific information on waste types and discharge requirements. The requirements of this guideline are in addition to the requirements specified in *Trade waste acceptance guideline 1: general acceptance criteria for liquid waste.*

Types of premises

Description of activity

Swimming pools and spas can be divided into four groups:

1. commercial
2. other institutional facilities
3. municipal (public) facilities
4. domestic scale swimming pools

Commercial/other

Discharges from swimming pools and spas (including hydrotherapy units) are classified as liquid trade wastes where they are attached to:

- hotels and clubs
- nursing homes or medical facilities such as hospitals (hydrotherapy units)
- fitness facilities such as gyms
- tourist resort facilities
- education facilities
- animal facilities such as horse (greyhound) racing and training facilities

Discharge of filter backwash water from swimming pools and spas listed above require Icon Water's approval.

Pre-treatment requirements

Filter backwash water shall be collected in a holding tank and then be discharged into the sewer at a controlled rate as specified in the approval conditions. Solids settled at the bottom of the holding tank should be removed for off-site disposal and not be discharged into the sewer.

Table 1: Issues of concern and related sewer acceptance requirements

Issue	Concern	Sewer acceptance requirements
Large volume of discharge if pool is emptied	Treatment costs and possible local network overloading	Commercial / institutional pools are normally NOT to be drained to sewer, but may be drained to the stormwater system subject to Environment Protection Authority approval. Under certain conditions Icon Water may agree to accept pool contents to sewer. Domestic pools may be drained to sewer only if ALL the following circumstances apply: • Emptying is to facilitate major repairs or repainting • The sewer connection is the sole form of drain • Pumping to environment or stormwater is not feasible • Discharge meets the required quality requirements
Pool overflow (from rainwater entry or overfilling)	Treatment costs. Rainwater is not permitted to enter the sewer	As above
Filter backwash	High flow rate may locally overload network. Other specific water quality concerns.	Pools other than domestic pools may need to install and maintain instrumentation and controls to ensure discharge to sewer is rate limited, and restricted to times when the sewer has sufficient capacity. Water quality requirements indicated below must be satisfied. In addition suspended solids must be less than 1000 mg/L.
Saline water discharge	Salt	At other than domestic pools, fresh water must be used to backwash pool filters. As indicated above, pool contents may not be

		discharged to sewer.
Storage of chemicals (including salt)	Chemicals discharged to sewer pose a risk to the health and safety of sewer workers.	Chemicals must be stored within bunds and must not drain to sewer.
Chlorine gas, sodium hypochlorite (pool chlorine), or calcium hypochlorite		Total chlorine not to exceed 5 mg/L as Cl
Bromine Sodium hypochlorite with added bromide ion Bromochloro-dimethyl hydantoin (Spabrom)		Combination of total chlorine plus total bromine concentrations not to exceed: 5 mg/L as Cl, or 10 mg/L as Br (use relationship 2 mg/L Br is equivalent to 1 mg/L Cl)
Sodium thiosulfate		Not to be used
Hydrochloric acid (Muriatic acid)		pH of discharge to be in the range 6.5 -10.0 units.
Colouring agents		No visible colour when the waste is diluted to the equivalent dilution afforded by domestic sewage flow.
Waste from animal pools / aquaria	Zoonotic disease transmission and spread of exotic species	Icon Water may determine further specific waste acceptance conditions.

Other issues

Icon Water may need to set an acceptance limit for total dissolved solids to suit local conditions for discharges from salt-water pools.

Furthermore, the discharger is required to provide Icon Water in advance the details of cleaning compounds, if any, (including brand name, quantity, SDS where appropriate) which intends to use for cleaning of pool surfaces. The wastewater arising from cleaning of pool surfaces by using strong detergents or acids shall not be permitted to discharge into the sewerage system.

Further information

Additional information about the discharge of liquid waste into Icon Water's sewerage network is available at **iconwater.com.au/tradewaste** or by contacting us on **02 6248 3111** or via email on **talktous@iconwater.com.au**